GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3042
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
EXPORT OF SUB-STANDARD TEA TO LIBYA
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost its tea export market in Libya due to alleged supply of sub-standard tea which not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the whether an enquiry has been conducted in this matter;

(c) if so, the action in the matter against the erring persons; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such things do not recur in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (d): Libya is not a stable market for Indian tea. Export of tea to Libya during the last five years were as follows:-

Year	Quantity in m.kgs.
1996	0.05
1997	1.65
1998	6.98
1999	Nil
2000	3.63

Indian Embassy, Tripoli in the month of August 2000 informed about supply of un-satisfactory quality of tea to Libyan National Supply Corporation (NASCO) by an Indian Exporter.

Tea Board initially obtained views of the Indian exporter on the allegation of supply of sub-standard tea and subsequently issued show cause notice to the exporter for suspension/cancellation of tea Exporter Licence granted under Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order 1957. The Indian exporter has been advised by the Tea Board to sort out the problem directly with NASCO. Follow up action on this is also being closely monitored by the Department of Commerce, Tea Board and our Embassy at Tripoli. To avoid recurrence of such disputes, the Government and Tea Board have introduced a Voluntary Scheme for the firms of importing countries desiring to have quality checks through agencies appointed by the Tea Board.